

Andrzeja Trzcieskiego zaslugi dla chemii w Polsce

Andreas Trzcinski's contribution to the development of chemistry in Poland

SUMMARY

Andreas Trzcieski (1749-1823) was a professor of physics at the Jagiellonian University in Cracow. He obtained a doctoral degree (Ph.D.) at this university in 1771. Later he spent some years as the stipendiary of the Commission for National Education in Göttingen and in Strasburg, studying the natural sciences and medicine. In 1782 he obtained a doctor of medicine degree in Strasburg. The teachers of chemistry of Trzcieski were J.F. Gmelin and, probably, G. Lichtenberg in Göttingen, and J.R. Spielmann in Strasburg

Trzcieski's MD Thesis entitled: *Theses chemico-physices*, was devoted mainly to the chemistry of mineral waters and carbon dioxide. He discussed similar problems also in the book: "*Nauka o napuszczaniu wody powietrzem kwaskowym*" [On the saturation of water with acid air] published in Cracow in 1787. In this book Trzcieski described the chemistry of gaseous substances, as known at that time. He also published in Cracow in 1788 his own translation of the textbook of physics written by J.P. Erxleben, and elaborated by G. Lichtenberg. Substantial fragments of this book are devoted to the chemistry of gases and salts. At first Trzcieski was an adherent of the phlogiston theory. Around the year 1790, however, he accepted the new theory of combustion proposed by Lavoisier.

In his philosophical views Trzcieski was an adherent of sensualism. Medicine was in his opinion a part of physics. He also believed that the progress of sciences was the right way to make human life more worthy and happy.

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